



History of Grizzly bear mgmt in BC

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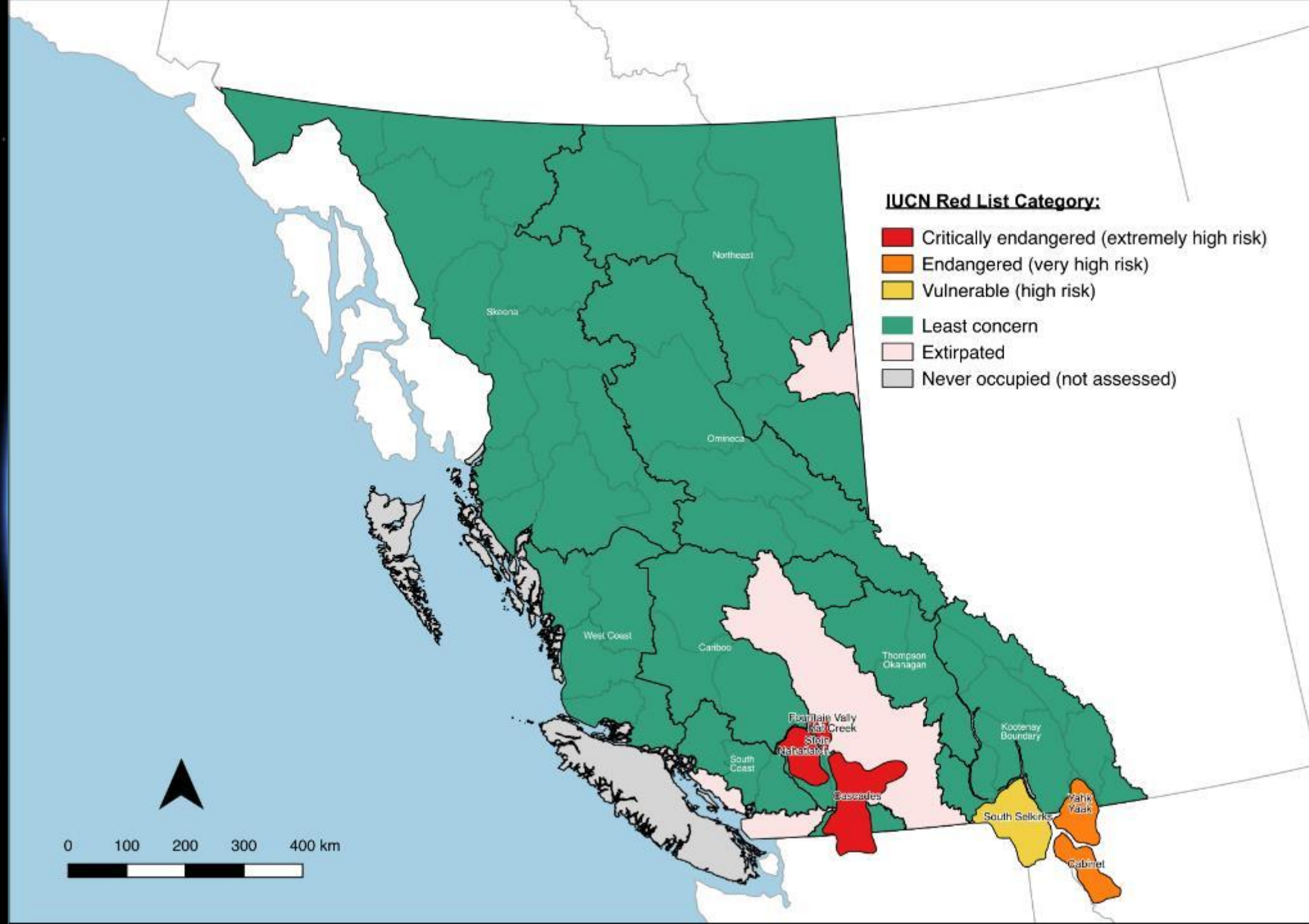
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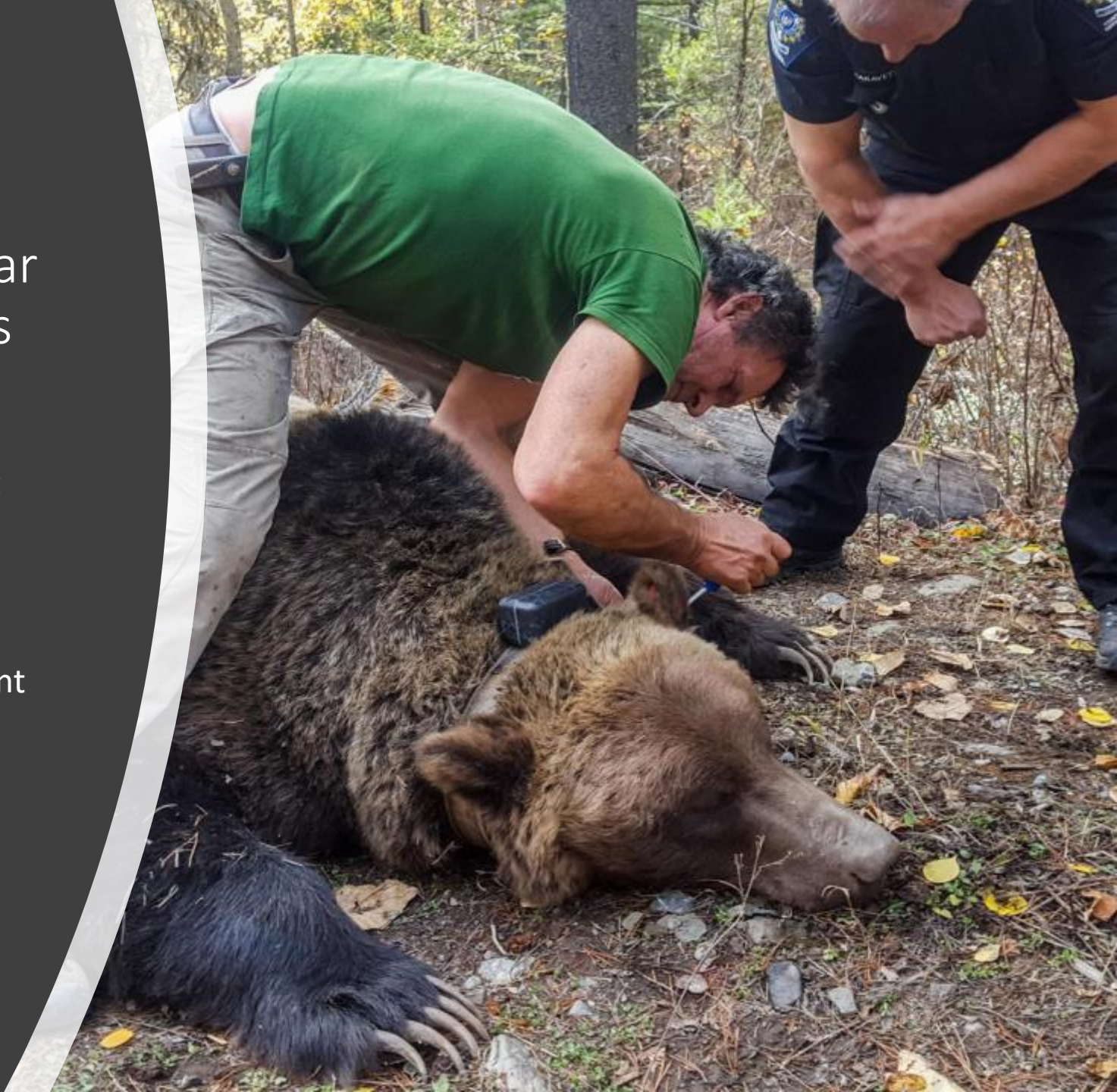
Predator control era





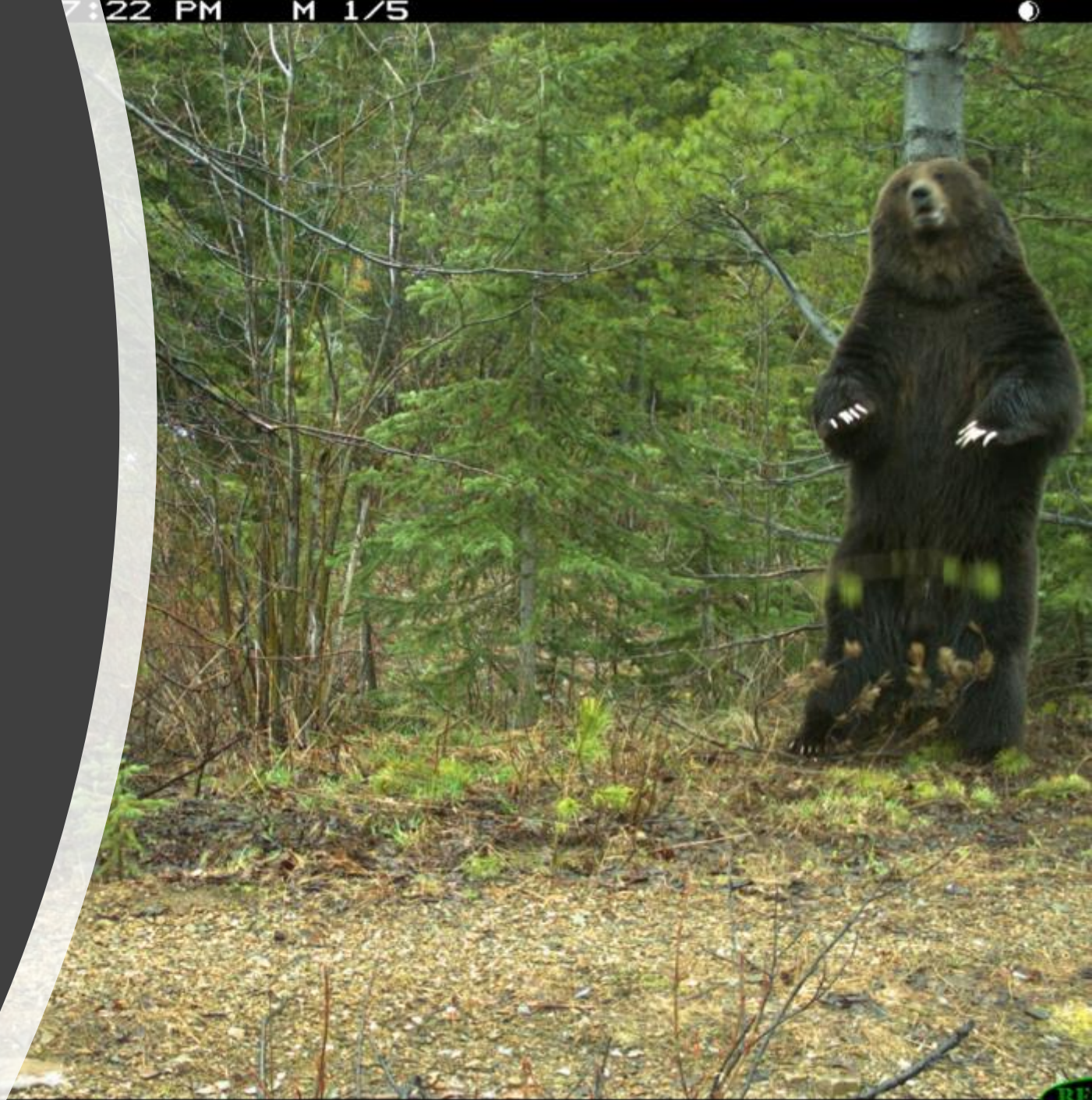
How do we manage grizzly bear conflict in BC now that there is no hunt?

- We assume the hunt did not reduce conflict
- We have not changed our conflict rules for Conservation Officers
- We did not increase the number of Conservation Officers in response to the hunt closing.



Hunting regime

- I.e. the rules that control the hunt (from Team Brief)
- No mention of killing of a bear accompanied by young is prohibited
- No mention of monitoring population trend to feed into hunting mgmt
- Hunting mgmt needs to consider changes in bear demography through time.



Is hunting sustainable?

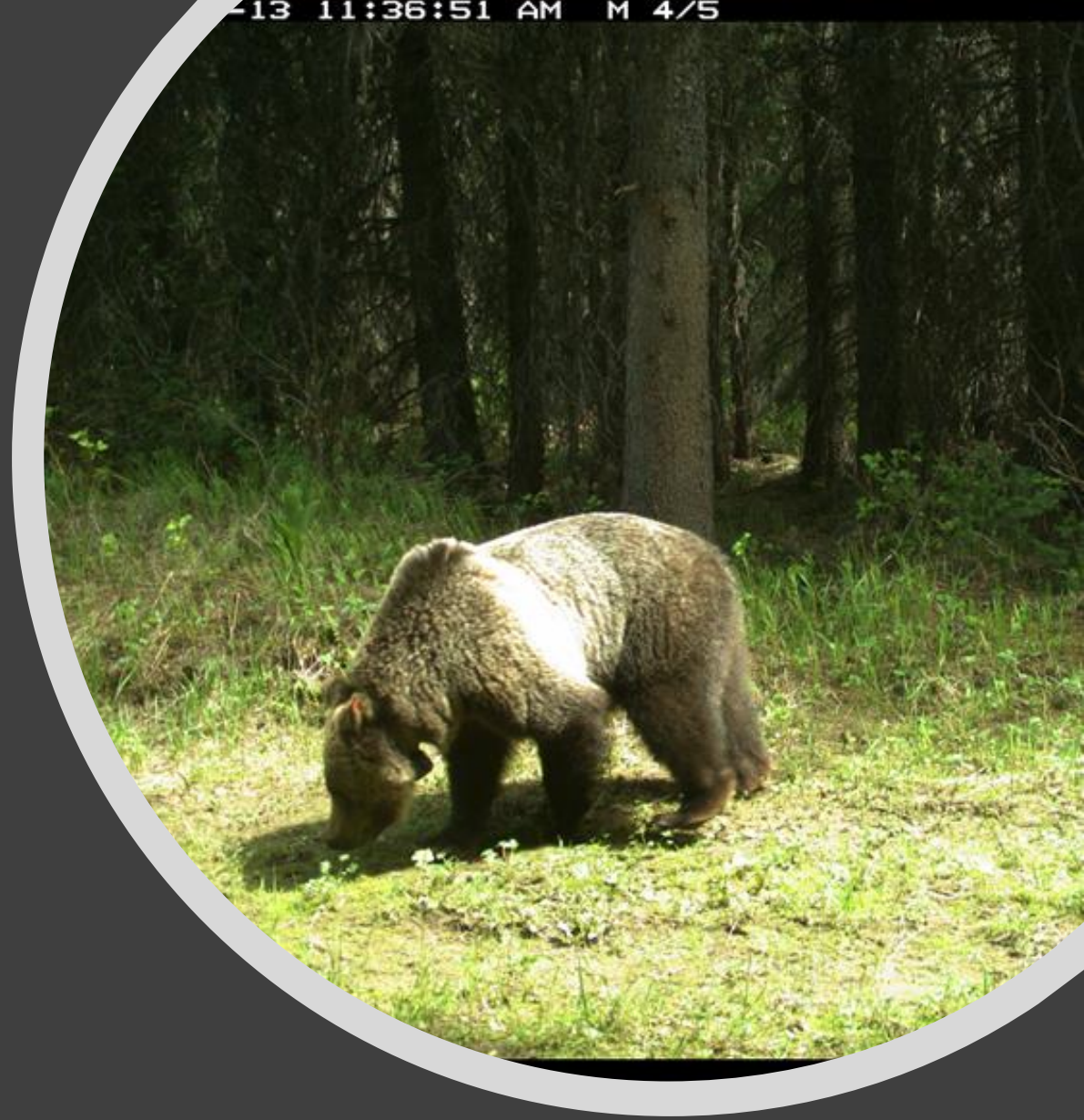
- Yes, there are numerous examples where hunting has been managed sustainably.
- Many ways to do this but the key is to minimize killing of adult females usually by forbidding the killing of females accompanied by young.
- These examples show that even slow growing bear populations produce an annual surplus.

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Does hunting regulate bear populations?

- No, the kill level is so low that the population size is reduced very little.
- The hunted proportion is replaced the following year such that the long-term population size (equilibrium) is nearly the same as the un-hunted population (carrying capacity).
- Heavy hunting does generate increased reproduction and cub survival as in other animals (ie a density-dependent response).
- Bear populations are limited by food in most of BC





Does hunting
reduce human
conflict for
grizzly bears?

- Conflict increases during long-term food shortages but bears do not abandon their home range to move to areas where there are human sources of food. Human conflict is rarer for bears that live in wilderness areas.
- Very old bears often seek human foods even though they did do this earlier in their life.
- Some bears die of old age.
- Hunting targets male bears in wilderness areas which are rarely conflict bears.



Does hunting increase social tolerance of bears?

- Not sure
- The majority of people do not hunt (about 3% of BC residents buy a hunting license)
- Some hunters opposed the grizzly bear hunt and many were indifferent to it closing.



Grizzly bear hunting is a trophy hunt

- This is irrelevant to the bear that is killed, and the bear population.
- All hunts and sport fisheries have a trophy component, this will never go away.
- If grizzly bears are not hunted for this reason then many other hunts can be criticized in the same light: (sheep hunt, goat hunt, etc.).
- Some BC hunters were making sausage from grizzly bear meat, similar to black bears.
- There are many other values of dead grizzly bears (eg spiritual values).

Does hunting make bears warier of people?

- Hotly debated and no clear answer
- Bears that are not hunted obviously become more tolerant of people.
- Not clear that tolerant bears are more dangerous to people.
- Food conditioned bears may be more dangerous to people.

